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almost infinitely improbable, viz., that, after the displacement, what Mr. Mallet calls the centre of adhesion shall have, in relation to the centre of gravity, such a position, that the moment of the weight of the displaced masses, referred to the centre of adhesion, shall have its original value, and tend, at the same time, to produce a motion of rotation opposite to that which has already occurred. Now, in order to this, the centre of adhesion must continue at the same side of the line of direction of the earthquake-movement passing through the centre of gravity of the displaced materials, and we must also have $d \times \sin \theta = d' \times \sin \theta'$, d and d' being the distance between centre of gravity and centre of adhesion before and after the first displacement, and θ and θ' the angles made by the direction of earthquake-movement with the lines connecting centre of gravity with centre of adhesion. It is scarcely necessary to say, that the fulfilment of such conditions in any particular case must be in the highest degree improbable.

The Secretary of the Academy read the second part of the Rev. Dr. Hincks' paper on Phonetic Hieroglyphics :

The object of the second part is to shew what data are most to be relied on for determining the exact powers of the Egyptian letters; the existence of an approximate alphabet is assumed, and the knowledge of facts grounded on the general correctness of this is to be applied to determine the exact alphabet. It is remarked, in the first place, that, as the powers of the letters probably varied at different times and in different parts of Egypt, it is necessary to assume a particular place and time, the alphabet of which is to be investigated. The place chosen is Thebes, and the time the interval between the deaths of the first and third kings of the name of Rameses, during which the principal sculptures at Thebes were executed, and the papyri in the British Museum, of which facsimiles have been published, were written. The data which

are considered the most valuable are transcriptions of foreign words occurring in the papyri and on the monuments of this period; while the words themselves, or transcriptions of them into Hebrew letters, are preserved in the Hebrew Scriptures, and in many cases transcriptions into Greek letters are also met with. As the alphabet, which, we previously found, was formed from transcriptions of Greek and Roman proper names into Egyptian characters made in the later ages, so it is by similar transcription, made in the time and at the place chosen for a standard, that this alphabet must be corrected and completed. Transcriptions of Egyptian words into Hebrew letters are a useful auxiliary to the other kind of transcriptions, especially when they contain the peculiar Hebrew letters which represent sounds unknown to the Greeks. Against these, however, the objection lies, that they probably represent the pronunciation of Lower Egypt, which may have differed from that of Thebes. The transcription of Egyptian words into Greek characters in Theban papyri of the Ptolemaic period, and in the names of kings, are also to be taken into consideration, chiefly, however, to supply the proper sounds of those letters, the Hebrew representative of which were ambiguous; the Maronetic points, by which a certain value was affixed to these letters, being shewn to be of no authority. In the case of S and SH, where the two sounds are expressed by the same letters in Greek as well as in Hebrew, we are compelled to seek a distinction in the Coptic equivalents of the ancient Egyptian words. It is maintained, however, that, owing to the Coptic representing the Egyptian language in its latest form, when many words had been corrupted, it should not be admitted as evidence in opposition to clear indications of the powers of the letters found in ancient transcriptions. Interchanges of letters, if habitually made in texts of the standard period, are admitted to be good evidence of the identity in power of the letters interchanged. But it is observed that the number of letters thus exchanged is very

limited, and a caution is given against depending too much on manuscripts, the writers of which were often very careless, and committed gross mistakes. This is especially the case with funeral MSS., on which no dependence whatever should be placed in reference to the present object. An opinion is expressed that all these MSS. are of a late age, and that the famous one at Turin, of which Dr. Lepsius has published a copy, is not earlier than the second century before Christ. It is shewn, too, that it was transcribed from a hieratic original, or from a hieroglyphic one which had been copied from a hieratic one. At the end of this part suggestions are given as to the aid which may be derived from the Indo-Germanic languages in determining the powers of Egyptian characters in some particular instances. The whole of this part is preparatory to the third, in which the principles laid down here will be applied to the practical determination of the powers of the letters.

Mr. Mallet presented his Translation of the Report of the Institute of France upon M. Arnollet's System of Atmospheric Railways.

February 23, 1846.

GEORGE PETRIE, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thomas Butler, Esq., John T. Evans, M.D., Richard R. Madden, M.D., Robert C. Williams, M.D., and Henry W. Massy, Esq., were elected Members of the Academy.

The Secretary of the Council having read to the Academy the following Resolution of the Council of the 16th of February,

“ That the Council are of opinion, that it is not expedient that the same person should be elected to the office of President more than five times in succession :”